

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 L-03 H-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
/065 W

-----124014 061000Z /17

P R 060915Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5845
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU
COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3624

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: JA, MARR
SUBJECT: DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY DUNCAN'S VISIT TO JAPAN: DISCUSSIONS
WITH GOJ OFFICIALS

FOLLOWING ARE
EMBASSY SUGGESTIONS AND COMMENTS FOR USE BY DEPSECDEF
DURING HIS MARCH 15 MEETINGS IN TOKYO.

1. COMING AS HE WILL FROM OBSERVATION OF TEAM SPIRIT,
JAPANESE WILL LOOK UPON DEPSECDEF DUNCAN'S VISIT AS FURTHER
CONSULTATION IN REGARD TO KOREAN TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLANS
FOLLOWING ON GENERAL BROWN-HABIB AND SECRETARY BROWN
VISIT LAST YEAR. LITTLE HAS CHANGED IN TERMS OF JAPANESE
ATTITUDES ON WITHDRAWALS SINCE SECRETARY BROWN'S TRIP.
GOJ OFFICIALS AND MANY INFORMED OBSERVERS STILL FEEL UNEASY
ABOUT POSSIBLE UNSETTLING EFFECTS ON STABILITY OF KOREAN
PENINSULA, BUT THERE IS NO LONGER INCLINATION TO FIGHT
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WITHDRAWAL PLANS AND SCENARIO CALLING FOR BACKLOADING,
COMPENSATION MEASURES, REINFORCEMENT OF US AIR, ETC., IS
ACCEPTED AS SENSIBLE APPROACH. ASST. SECRETARY MCGIFFERT
WAS ABLE TO BRING KEY FOREIGN MINISTRY AND JDA OFFICIALS
UP TO DATE ON JOINT PLANNING WITH ROK DURING JANUARY SSC
MEETING IN HONOLULU, ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO PLANNING FOR
JOINT COMMAND. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF DEPSECDEF COULD

FOLLOW ON THESE EARLIER CONSULTATIONS.

2. KEY QUESTION JAPANESE ARE LIKELY TO POSE, AS THEY HAVE IN PAST, IS WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN SHOULD CONGRESS FAIL TO PASS IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION FOR COMPENSATORY MEASURES. UP TO NOW WE HAVE HELD THIS TO BE HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION AND HAVE NOTED THAT WE ARE PROCEEDING ON ASSUMPTION CONGRESSIONAL ACTION WILL BE FORTHCOMING, BUT JAPANESE WILL HAVE NOTED RECENT CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY BY SECDEF AND OTHERS TO EFFECT WE WILL CONTINUE TO REVIEW SITUATION AS WE GO ALONG.

3. RELATED TO AND STIMULATED BY TROOP WITHDRAWALS IS BROADER QUESTION OF US STAYING POWER IN PACIFIC. SECRETARY BROWN'S EXCELLENT LOS ANGELES SPEECH WAS WELL RECEIVED, BUT UNFORTUNATELY DID NOT GET WIDE PUBLICITY. DESPITE OUR EFFORTS TO CALL ATTENTION TO IT IT WAS OVERSHADOWED IN MEDIA BY MANUFACTURED MINI-FLAP ABOUT CONDITIONS GOVERNING DEPLOYMENT OF US FORCES IN JAPAN TO KOREA. NO MATTER HOW OFTEN AND HOW FIRMLY WE DENY THAT TROOP WITHDRAWALS ARE FIRST STEP IN LONG-TERM PLAN FURTHER TO REDUCE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN WEST PAC, CONVICTION THAT THIS IS OUR INTENTION STILL HAS WIDE CURRENCY. PERHAPS MOST REASSURING ARGUMENT TO CONTRARY WAS PRESENTATION BY GENERAL BRASWELL AT SSC ABOUT FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. WE RECOMMEND THAT DEPSECDEF IN HIS

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CONVERSATIONS REVIEW SOME OF THIS SAME GROUND, ESPECIALLY INASMUCH AS IT WILL GOVE PRINCIPALS SUCH AS MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND DEFENSE AND MILITARY CHIEFS, OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE WORD FIRST HAND.

4. FINAL THEME WE WOULD SUGGEST DEPSECDEF TOUCH ON LIGHTLY IS COST SHARING. WE ARE NOW IN PROCESS OF SORTING OUT DATA AND PRIORITIES PURSUANT TO DISCUSSION AT SSC, AND IT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE TO GET INTO DETAIL OR TO MAKE HARD PITCH SO SOON AFTER DECEMBER LABOR-COST-SHARING AGREEMENT. MOREOVER, LABOR COST AGREEMENT IS STILL BEING DEBATED IN DIET, WHERE IT WOULD BE MOST DAMAGING FOR OUR FRIENDS IN GOJ SHOULD NOTION GET OUT THAT WE WERE ALREADY HITTING UP JAPANESE FOR MORE ASSISTANCE. WE RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT DEPSECDEF EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR JAPANESE HELP ON LABOR-COST FRONT, ACKNOWLEDGE HIS UNDERSTANDING OF CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE FURNISHED BY GOJ IN REGARD TO FACILITIES, AND SIMPLY NOTE THAT OUR BUDGETARY PROBLEMS REMAIN SEVERE AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING FUTURE CONSULTATION ON HOW WE MIGHT WORK TOGETHER TO OVERCOME SOME OF OUR DIFFICULTIES.

5. ON OTHER THEMES, WE SUGGEST DEPSECDEF EXPRESS SATISFACTION WITH EVOLUTION IN OUR CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY THAT ENABLES US TO ADDRESS SECURITY PROBLEMS FRANKLY AND MEANINGFULLY AT SEVERAL LEVELS; NOTE WITH APPROVAL SDF FORCE IMPROVEMENT PLANS, IN PARTICULAR ACQUISITION OF F-15 AND P3C; AND INDICATE UNDERSTANDING AND ADMIRATION FOR SKILLFUL WAY IN WHICH KEY GOJ OFFICIALS HAVE MANAGED THEMSELVES IN DIET DEBATE ON SECURITY ISSUES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS, MUTUAL FORCE WITHDRAWALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978TOKYO03624
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780100-0525
Format: TEL
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803100/aaaadhli.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3518f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3101940
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPUTY DEFENSE SECRETARY DUNCAN'S VISIT TO JAPAN: DISCUSSIONS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS FOLLOWING ARE
TAGS: MARR, JA
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3518f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014